

Reference no: MNU-CA-PAMD/2025/119

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Maldives National University (MNU) invites interested and eligible bidders to submit proposals for Review & Upgrade of Architecture Master's Programme.
2. International competitive bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with the procedures specified in the Maldivian Public Finance Regulation.
3. Technical requirements and qualifications requirements are stated in the bidding document.
4. To obtain further information, bidders should contact:
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FEST)
The Maldives National University
Phone: +960 3345444, 3345461
Email: fest@mnu.edu.mv
5. Online bidders send the bid documents to bids@mnu.edu.mv
6. Or deliver your bid physically to the address: MNU Central Administration, (Rahdhebai hingun, Male-City) on 10:00hrs, Maldivian time on 30th September 2026. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of the bidder's representatives.

16th September 2026





Information to Bidders

Section-1: Bid Data Sheet (BDS)

Subject: Review & Upgrade of Architecture Master's Programme (FEST)

Bid reference number: MNU_CA-PAMD/2026/119 **Date:** 16th September 2026

Project completion duration: Refer to TOR

Bid awarding: Refer to TOR

Eligible parties to submit bid:

- ☒ Both local and international parties / individuals
- ☒ Only local business entities/individuals
- ☐ Only local MSMEs

Pre-bid/site visit meeting:

Date: -
Time: -
Venue: -

Clarification deadline:

Date: **before 21st September 2026 (via email)**
Time: **14:00hrs**

Bid submission and bids opening:

Date: **30th September 2026**
Time: **10:00 (Maldivian Time)**

Online bidders submit the bid to: bids@mnu.edu.mv

Venue: **Central Administration, The Maldives National University, Rah'dhebai Hingun, Male'**

Bid security amount: - **Performance guarantee amount: -**

Clarification contacts regarding technical specifications:

Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology
The Maldives National University
Handhuvaree Hingun, Male', Maldives
Phone: +960 3345444, 3345461
Email: fest@mnu.edu.mv

Clarification contacts regarding administration:

Procurement Department
The Maldives National University
Rah'dhebai Hingun, Male', Maldives
Phone: +960 3345109, 3345110, 3345111, 3345148
Email: procurement@mnu.edu.mv



Section-2: Instructions to Bidders (ITB)

1. Scope of Bid

- 1.1. MNU acknowledged in Section 1, Bid Data Sheet (BDS) that the Bidding Document was issued for the procurement of Goods and related services as outlined in Section 3, University's requirements. The BDS contains information on the name and identification.

2. Cost of Bidding

- 2.1. Bidders must pay for all expenses associated with preparing and submitting their bids, and MNU will not be held responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of how the bidding process proceeds. The bid, on submission to MNU, becomes the sole property of MNU, and the bidder has no right to reclaim any of the documentation.

3. Fraud and Corruption

- 3.1. MNU's policy is that Bidders, Suppliers, contractors, and their agents (whether declared or not), sub-contractors, sub-consultants, service providers or suppliers, and any personnel thereof must follow the highest ethical standards throughout the procurement and execution process. In pursuance of this policy:

- 3.1.1. For the purposes of this provision, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them below:

- 3.1.1.1. "Corrupt Practice" is, offering, receiving, or soliciting anything of value to interfere with another party's conduct.
- 3.1.1.2. "Fraudulent Practice" refers to any act or omission, including a misrepresentation that is intentionally or negligently made with the intent of obtaining financial or other gain or avoiding an obligation, whether successful or not.
- 3.1.1.3 "Collusive Practice" is the act of two or more parties coming together to achieve an illegal aim, such as to persuade another party to do something; and



3.1.1.4. “Coercive practice” is affecting or threatening to affect directly or indirectly, any party or the property of a party in order to influence improperly the actions of a party.

3.1.2. will reject the offer, If MNU determines that a Bidder who has been recommended for award, or any of its personnel, agents, sub-consultants, subcontractors, service providers, suppliers or/and employees has engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive activities in order to win the Contract in question.

4. Eligible Bidders

- 4.1. A bidder may be an individual, a private company, a government-owned business, or any other combination of such businesses if the bid is opened for local parties only. Otherwise, the bid is open to all including international parties.
- 4.2. All Bidders found to have a conflict of interest will be disqualified. A conflict of interest may exist between a bidder and one or more parties in this bidding process, if:
 - 4.2.1. they have controlling shareholders in common; or
 - 4.2.2. for the purposes of this bid, they are represented by the same legal representative; or
 - 4.2.3. they have a relationship with one other, directly or indirectly through common third parties, that gives them the ability to access information about or impact another Bidders bid, or influence MNU’s decisions regarding this bidding process: or
- 4.3. a bidder was a consultant involved in preparing Section 3, which is the subject of the bid; or
- 4.4. Any bidder that is declared ineligible by MNU under ITB 3 on or before the bid deadline, or thereafter, will be disqualified.



- 4.5. This bidding is only available to prequalified Bidders if a pre-qualification procedure has previously been done.

B. Contents of Bidding Document

5. Bidding Documents

- 5.1. The Bidding Document includes all the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with any Addenda issued in accordance with ITB 7
- 5.1.1. Bid Form
- 5.1.2. Information to Bidders
- 5.1.2.1. Section 1: Bid Data Sheet (BDS)
 - 5.1.2.2. Section 2: Information to Bidders (ITB)
 - 5.1.2.3. Section 3: MNU's technical requirement with evaluation criteria
 - 5.1.2.4. Section 4: Appendices (forms)
- 5.2. MNU's announcement or invitation for Bids is part of the Bidding Document.
- 5.3. The bidding document shall be obtained from the source stated in the invitation for bids. MNU is not responsible for the incompleteness of the bid document if it was obtained from a source other than those identified in the invitation for bids.
- 5.4. The Bidding Document is a legal document that contains rules, procedures, conditions, and requirements governing the purchase of goods or services. The Bidder must read all instructions, forms, terms, and requirements in the Bidding Document. If the bid does not include all required information or documentation, it will be rejected.

6. Clarification of Bidding Document

- 6.1. The Bidder's designated representative is invited to a pre-bid meeting if provided for in the BDS. This session will be used to address any



concerns and answer any queries that may arise at this time.

- 6.2. MNU will respond to any questions in writing or by email as soon as possible before the clarification deadline set forth in BDS.
- 6.3. Minutes of the pre-bid meeting, including the questions submitted without indicating who presented them, and the answers provided, as well as any responses prepared after the meeting, will be sent to all Bidders who are eligible in accordance with ITB 4. Modifications to the Bidding Document that become necessary as a result of the pre-bid meeting/site visit should be made by MNU exclusively through the issue of an Addendum/Amendment in accordance with ITB 7 and not through the minutes of the pre-bid meeting.

7. Amendment of Bidding Document

- 7.1. MNU may modify the Bidding Document at any time before the bid submission by issuing an addendum/amendment.
- 7.2. Each addendum issued will be part of the Bidding Document and notified in writing or email to all those who have obtained it from MNU as per ITB5 or will be published in Gazette.
- 7.3. To give potential Bidders sufficient time to consider an addendum while preparing their bids, MNU may, at its discretion, extend the bid submission deadline under ITB16

C. Preparation of Bids

8. Cost of Bidding

- 8.1 MNU shall not be responsible or liable for any expenses associated with the bid's preparation and submission, and the Bidder will be responsible for all costs.

Documents Comprising the Bid

- 9.1. The bid submitted by the bidder must include all of the documentation listed in ITB 5, appendix-1, the bidder's checklist as well as any additional information requested in MNU's Requirements.



10. Bid Prices

- 10.1. The Bidder must submit the Bid Form. This form may not be modified in any way and no substitutes are permitted. Any blank spaces on the form must be filled in with the information requested.

11. Currencies of Bid and Payments

- 11.1. The currency of the bid and the payment currency must be as stated in the BDS.

12. Documents Establishing the Qualification of the Bidder

- 12.1. If required in the BDS, a Bidder must provide a Manufacturer's Authorization. A Bidder that does not manufacture or produce the Products it offers to sell should submit the document.

13. Period of Validity of Bids

- 13.1. Bids shall be valid a minimum of 60 days after the bid submission deadline date set by MNU. A bid that is only valid for a shorter amount of time will be rejected by MNU as non-responsive.
- 13.2. In exceptional circumstances, MNU may request that Bidders extend the duration of their bids before it expires.

14. Format and Signing of Bid

- 14.1. The Bidder shall submit one original of the documents comprising the bid as described in ITB 5
- 14.2. The bid must be signed by a person or persons with authority to sign on behalf of the Bidder.
- 14.3. Amendments, interlineations, erasures, or overwriting must be signed by the person signing the bid.

D. Submission and Opening of Bids

15. Submission, Sealing and Marking of Bids

- 15.1. Bidders may always submit bids by hand. Bidders may have the option of submitting their bids electronically if this is specified in the BDS. The following are the procedures for sealing, and marking



bids:

- Bidders submitting bids by hand shall include the original of the bid in a sealed envelope.
- The bid document should be according to the order specified in the checklist (appendix-1).
- Bidders who do not provide any of the required documents will be disqualified at the bid evaluation stage.

15.2. The envelope shall:

- bid subject, bid submission date and announcement number;
- provide the name and address of the Bidder;
- be addressed to MNU in accordance with ITB 15;

15.3. If envelopes and packages are not properly sealed and labelled as required, MNU will not be responsible for any mistakes or premature opening of the bid.

16. Deadline for submission of Bids

16.1. Bids must be submitted to MNU at the specified address no later than the stated deadline and time, which are stated in the BDS.

16.2. MNU, at its discretion, may extend the deadline for bids by amending the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 7, which would extend all rights and responsibilities of MNU, and Bidders who were previously subject to the deadline.

17. Late Bids

17.1. Any bid received by MNU after the deadline for submitting bids, as set forth in ITB 16, will be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Bidder.

18. Bid Opening

18.1. MNU must open the bid in front of Bidders' designated representatives and others who choose to attend, at the address, date and time stipulated in the BDS. If electronic bidding is allowed according to BDS, any specific electronic bid opening procedures listed in the BDS shall be followed.



- 18.2. MNU will open the envelopes during the bid submission meeting, reading out the name of the Bidder, the Price(s), alternative bids, and any other information as deemed appropriate. Except for late bids, no bid shall be rejected during the bid opening.
- 18.3. MNU will create a record of the bid opening that must include at a minimum: the Bidder's name, the Bid Price, and any alternative proposals. The representatives of all Bidders who submitted bids on time should sign the record. The absence of a signature on the record does not render it invalid or impact its contents.

E.Examination of Bids

19. Confidentiality

- 19.1. The evaluation of bids is confidential and shall not be revealed to Bidders or any other persons not directly connected with the process. Information on the Contract award will not be shared with Bidders or any other individuals until after all submitters have been notified.
- 19.2. Any attempt by a Bidder to improperly influence MNU's evaluation of bids or Contract award decisions may result in its bid being rejected. From the time of bid opening until Contract award, if any Bidder wishes to communicate with MNU on any topic relating to the bidding process, it should send a written communication.

20. Clarification of Bids

- 20.1. MNU may request clarification from any Bidder at any time, and the response should be in writing. MNU has the option of asking a bidder for a further explanation of its bid at any time during the bidding process to assist with evaluation and comparison. Any clarifications supplied by a bidder that is not in reaction to a request from MNU shall not be considered.
- 20.2. If a Bidder fails to respond to MNU's request for clarification by



the specified date and time, its offer may be rejected.

21. Determination of Responsiveness

- 21.1. MNU will evaluate bids to determine if they meet the required conditions. Each bid must be signed correctly; contain the necessary documents; be adequately responsive to the bidding documents' requirements; and offer any clarification or support that MNU may need to assess their responsiveness.
- 21.2. The Evaluation Committee has the right to modify the eligibility criteria or a particular term in the Bid Document and apply it to all bids in an instance where no eligible or responsive bid is found through the terms of the Bid document.

22. Correction of Errors

- 22.1. MNU will compare the submitted bids to ensure that they are correct. Any arithmetic mistakes will be verified by MNU. Where there is a contradiction between the amounts in words and figures, the amount in figures shall prevail. In either of these cases, unless MNU's opinion is otherwise, the unit rate as quoted will govern, with any obvious gross misplacement of the decimal point in the unit rate corrected.
- 22.2. The amount stated in the bid will be adjusted by MNU in accordance with ITB 22.1 for the correction of errors, and with the bidder's agreement, it will be regarded as binding on the bidder. If a bidder does not accept the revised amount of the bid, its offer may be ruled invalid.

23. Qualification of Bidder

- 23.1. MNU shall assess the qualifying requirements, if set forth in Section 3, Evaluation Criteria, to determine whether the bid that was chosen as having offered the best proposal and substantially responsive bid.
- 23.2. The evaluation shall be based on an examination of the Bidder's



documentation of qualifications submitted by the bid, as required by ITB 12.

- 23.3. The Contract shall be awarded to the Bidder who has received an affirmative determination. A negative determination will result in disqualification of the bid, at which point MNU will proceed to the next highest-rated bidder to assess that bidder's capacity to perform adequately.

24. MNU's Right to Accept Any Bid, and to Reject Any or All Bids

- 24.1. MNU has the right to accept or reject any offer and cancel the bidding process and reject all bids at any time before contract award, with no liability to bidders.

F. Award of Contract

25. Award Criteria

- 25.1. MNU shall select the best-rated and responsive to the Bidding Document, subject to ITB 24, and award the Contract to the Bidder who is determined to be qualified to execute the contract successfully.
- 25.2. At the time a Contract is awarded, MNU reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of Goods and Related Services specified in Section 3, Requirements, and without affecting bid unit prices or other conditions.

26. Notification of Award

- 26.1. MNU shall notify the successful Bidder in writing that its bid has been accepted before the end of the bidding period. The notification letter must state the amount of money that MNU will pay the Supplier in exchange for the supply of Goods and Related Services.

- 26.2. The notification of award, as it exists now, is a legally enforceable Contract until a formal contract and signature are obtained.



26.3. MNU shall simultaneously inform all other Bidders of the outcome of the bidding process via email or post on Gazette, the results, which include the bid as well as the following details:

- 26.3.1. Name of each bidder who submitted a bid;
- 26.3.2. bid prices as read out at the start of the bidding process.
- 26.3.3. name and evaluated pricing of each Bid that was considered.
- 26.3.4. names of bidders whose bids were rejected for non-compliance or any other reason, as well as the duration and summary scope of the contract awarded. Bidders who lose may request a debriefing from MNU in writing to obtain answers regarding the reasons for their bids not being chosen. MNU must respond promptly in writing to any unsuccessful bidder who requests a debriefing after the contract award.

27. Signing of Contract

- 27.1. MNU is required to send the successful Bidder the Contract Agreement immediately upon notification.
- 27.2. The successful Bidder shall sign, date, and return the Contract Agreement to MNU within seven (3) days of receiving it.



Section-3: Technical requirements with evaluation criteria

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FEST)

**MALDIVES NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
MALE' REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**



TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Review & Upgrade of Architecture Master's Programme at Faculty of Engineering, Science and
Technology
The Maldives National University**

This TOR is in reference to announcement number: MNU_CA_PAMD/2026/119

16th September 2026



Table of Contents

1. Background	16
2. Objectives of Assignment	16
3. Scope of Works	16
4. Deliverables	2
5. Duration of the Consultancy	3
6. Reporting Requirements	3



1. Background

Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology (FEST) in the Maldives National University (MNU) has developed a 2-year master's program by coursework in Architecture through a process that involved external consultants and local expertise. However, due to some shortcomings, the program was never offered at FEST.

Since it has been some years since the program was developed, it is believed that a review and upgrade of this mentioned program is essential. The existing program is required to be benchmarked against a masters-level architecture program at a renowned university, while the content re-aligned to reflect the developments in the industry. Amendments may also be necessary in order to reflect on the very recent changes brought to its related Architecture undergraduate degree program at the FEST.

Hence FEST is seeking the services of a consultant to undertake the works necessary to revise and upgrade the existing 2-year master's degree course in Architecture, working in close collaboration with its Architecture Department.

2. Objectives of Assignment

The Objective of this consultancy is to undertake the necessary processes of identifying the needs, benchmarking the program against an interior architecture program at a renowned university, and revising the course Document for the existing 2-year undergraduate program in Architecture for FEST to reflect current needs.

3. Scope of Works

The consultants will be in constant communication with FEST and directly responsible for delivering the following outputs:

A. Reconfirmation of the current needs of the program and the required curriculum adjustments. It is proposed that this assessment will be done through the following:

- Undertake the necessary consultations with the stakeholders from the education sector, Maldives Qualification Authority (MQA), the Ministries and non-governmental institutions with portfolios relating to the built environment, prominent practitioners, architectural design firms and construction firms as relevant.



- Identify the strengths and any weaknesses of existing program, and any shortcomings in addressing desired skills and capacity gaps.
 - Benchmark the future reviewed program with a known and established international program enabling potential future accreditation by bodies such as the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB- US) etc.
 - Refer to the recent amendments introduced into the undergraduate-level Architecture Degree program at FEST and identify the content that has to maintain correlation across both programs in order to maximize quality of program integration and also minimize resource duplications etc. where relevant.
 - Propose a tentative structure (Course structure) for the revised future Master's in Architecture program (by coursework).
- B. The existing Course Document for undergraduate Master of Architecture program (by coursework) is to be revised to be accredited under the MQA's new MNQF at level 9 (master's degree level).
- C. The Subject Outlines must be detailed in accordance to the template followed at MNU and endorsed in the Committee on Courses (CoC).
- D. The consultant must also ensure that the exercises in the Master of Architecture program fulfills the following:
- Has adequate inter-connection across the subjects/units of the program to support the core design subjects/units.
 - Has substantial content that reflects the current trends in the field including sustainable and green building design and energy efficient building practices, and responsible development
 - Has a specialty focus that reflects the Maldivian context and serves as an added value for the program
 - The weekly activities and topics (with necessary descriptions and the list of primary reference texts with the inclusion of page numbers) must be described in all the subject/unit outlines.
- E. In addition to the academic subject/unit outlines, the consultant must review and update the previous contents in the course document that addresses the following:
- The Quality Control processes necessary for the best deliverance of the Program
 - The Monitoring and Evaluation processes that will be required to be in place
 - The List of Equipment and Resources necessary for the conduction of the



Program

- Descriptions of the Program development and Review process, the lessons learned and options for scalability of the program or credit transfer
- Review of the technical and resource gaps (both physical resources and staff) at FEST to deliver the 2-year master's program in Architecture.
- Any proposed recommendations/suggestions to improve the quality of the program and the stature of the program

4. Deliverables

Deliverable	Delivery Date (from Commencement)
1. Brief Needs analysis & Inception Report 1.1 Stakeholder consultations and Outcome 1.2 Identification of an appropriate Benchmark Program 1.3 Brief Review of existing Master's degree program and identify the necessary changes to the subject outlines to adhered to the recent amendments introduced into the undergraduate-level Architecture Program 1.4 Work plan	1 month
2. Revised/formatted subject outlines detailed in accordance to the template followed at MNU (to be endorsed in the CoC). <i>Note: This includes ALL subject outlines, whether primary content remains the same or the subject is developed anew.</i>	2 Months
2. Revised MQA course Curriculum Document Draft for Master of Architecture program	1 months
3. Final Course Document: 3.1 MQA Course curriculum document for Master of Architecture program 3.2 Additional Details/Descriptions for Q&A and future development	1 month



5. Duration of the Consultancy

The Total Duration of the assignment is 5 calendar months upon signing the contract.

6. Reporting Requirements

- The consultants will report directly to the Dean of FEST or any other person designated by the Dean.
- The Consultant is expected to work closely with FEST and make formal communications in written form.
- The Consultant or an approved representative of the Consultant is required to physically meet the Client at all stages of the Project to enhance communications.
- Expenses of travel and accommodation (if any) will have to be borne by the consultant
- The Minutes of Meetings held with the FEST/Client must be provided to FEST within 2 working days of the meetings.

